GPS for exact geographical location of trains

1653. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Railways has any proposal to install Global Positioning System to know exact geographical location of each train at all times;

(b) whether it is a fact that private transporters are already using this technology; and

(c) if so, the reasons why Railways is delaying adapting it for its network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway has sanctioned a pilot project Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN) for real time passenger information system. This project is being developed by utilizing Global Positioning System (GPS). This project is being carried out jointly by Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. The pilot project is sanctioned for development of hardware and software for providing real time information to the passengers.

The objectives of SIMRAN project are:

To develop technology for continuously tracking every train for its location, speed and direction of movement.

To develop techniques to disseminate information on real time basis about train running to passengers and to the general public through display boards of stations, Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), Short Message Service (SMS) and Internet.

(b) Yes, Sir. This technology can be used for tracking of moving objects like vehicles, locos, aeroplanes etc.

(c) The pilot project is planned for completion by March, 2008. Based on its outcome, decision to implement this system over Indian Railways will be taken.

Vacancies in Railways

1654. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies in Railways, zone-wise and department-wise; and

(b) the action taken to fill up those vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):

(a) Railway/Zone-wise and department-wise vacancies as on 31.12.2007

Railway/Zone	Acct	Adm	Civil	Coml	Elect	Mech	Med	Pers.	RPF	S&T	Store	TPT
Central	215	101	3404	1049	1770	1726	401	116	631	705	511	1957
East Coast	36	70	5232	472	796	1202	153	152	432	353	18	725
East Central	198	232	6826	1186	1193	1923	289	117	351	781	484	1665
Eastern	226	41	5665	299	1262	2778	13	12	911	696	440	975
North Central	274	130	2466	732	1601	1474	195	92	137	676	260	1012

Railway/Zone	Acct	Adm	Civil	Coml	Elect	Mech	Med	Pers.	RPF	S&T	Store	TPT
North Eastern	31	41	1704	184	195	784	85	26	187	69	138	239
Northeast Frontier	234	161	3611	589	777	2696	356	107	653	511	250	807
Northern	343	264	5505	-37	1759	5423	465	49	772	984	537	738
North Western	331	187	3525	217	487	1850	133	60	104	472	231	924
South Central	193	177	5368	125	433	2500	133	128	227	370	262	761
South East Central	335	100	3703	220	1204	1078	133	138	231	354	125	656
South Eastern	84	-12	5402	222	1026	2101	358	144	500	711	814	938
Southern	197	105	3704	-17	841	2300	159	127	278	363	169	588
South Western	332	186	3086	232	184	1988	157	38	27	115	299	544
West Central	298	209	3360	412	378	1466	151	153	104	354	235	1010
Western	545	-117	3047	1189	1162	1408	255	43	916	851	368	223

Note: Figures are (provisional) and Negative (-) figures indicates excess of staff over sanctioned strength.

(b) Any large organization like the Railway will have vacancies at any point of time. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies arise due to normal retirement, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions etc. Vacancies are filled primarily through open market recruitment, promotions and compassionate ground appointments which is done through Railways Recruitment Boards or by the Zonal Railways themselves. Other vacancies in the promotional grade are filled through departmental promotions.

Mosquito density at stations

1655. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chennai Central, Egmore, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirunelvelli, Tiruchirapalli and Katpadi are 'high risk' stations taking into account of alarming mosquito density there and the Railway premises have crossed critical levels of density;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the mosquito density was around 10 man-hour density in residential areas while it was over 500 man-hour density at railway stations;

(d) the reasons for the occurrence of the menace; and

(e) the measures taken to eliminate this menace and the measures to mitigate, if elimination is not possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, Tamil Nadu State Health authorities have been requested to conduct an assessment of mosquito density in all the stations involving Railway health authorities also.

(d) Geoclimatic conditions *e.g.* temperature and humidity determine the growth and breeding of mosquitoes.